GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5844
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2000
INDO NEPAL JWG MEETING
ABDUL HAMID;HARIBHAU MAHALE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-Nepal Joint Working Group (JWG) held its meeting in New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the issues discussed;

(c) the outcome thereof;

(d) whether both the countries have agreed to jointly promote use of Sanskrit and make the Ayurvedic System of medicine popular; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a), (b) & (c) No meeting of the India-Nepal Joint Working Group (JWG) was recently held in New Delhi. However, the third meeting of the India-Nepal Joint Working Group on Border Management was held from February 1-3, 2000 in Kathmandu. During the meeting, the two sides reiterated their determination not to permit the use of their respective territories for activities directed against the other. They reviewed the developments since the last meeting of the JWG and had a useful exchange of views on modalities for more effective management and regulation of the India-Nepal border. They agreed to strengthen cooperation to control undesirable activities and the movement of terrorists, criminals and other undesirable elements across the border. It was reiterated that the privilege of unimpeded access across the open border enjoyed by the nationals of the two countries should not be allowed to be misused by anyone, including third country nationals. The need for intensified and coordinated patrolling at sensitive border points, including the deployment of Central and State Police Forces on our side, was discussed with the objective of enhancing security and preventing misuse of the open India-Nepal border, while ensuring that the facility remains available for legitimate users.

(d) & (e) India and Nepal have a long tradition of cooperation to promote the use of Sanskrit and popularise the Ayurvedic system of medicine. Such cooperation has, with Government`s support and facilitation, strengthened over the years. However, there is no formal agreement between India and Nepal specifically to promote the use of Sanskrit and popularize the Ayurvedic system of medicine.